

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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The Honorable John M. McHugh
U.S. House of Representatives
120 Washington Street, Suite 200
Watertown, NY 13601

Dear Congressman McHugh:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your leadership and your efforts by inviting New York State Members of Congress to sign a letter to Governor David A. Paterson, urging him to restore funding to the State University of New York.

As you know, SUNY suffered several cuts throughout the 2008-09 state budget cycle, and the recently adopted 2009-10 state budget will cut another \$118 million in direct state support. Students are paying more in tuition after a recently adopted increase and are getting a lesser quality education as a result of these cuts.

SUNY Canton specifically has lost more than \$2 million from an operating budget of less than \$20 million. That's more than a 10 percent loss in state support, despite increased tuition and strong application numbers for Fall 2009. At this time, we are counting on 10 people retiring, and we currently are anticipating non-renewal of at least 10 more faculty and professionals over the next two years. None of these positions will be replaced until economic conditions improve, and even more cuts in personnel may be necessary. For a region with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, the loss of these professional jobs will have devastating effects on the local economy.

Meanwhile, SUNY Canton is experiencing extraordinary growth, registering a record-high enrollment for the Fall 2008 semester and anticipating a new enrollment record for the 2009-10 academic year. However, our students will have less tenured faculty teaching their courses, will have less classroom resources, and will have more costs as a result of the State's divestment in public higher education.

I wish you the utmost success in securing signatures from all 29 New York Congressional Members, and I will be anxiously awaiting the results of your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Kennedy', is written over the typed name and title.

Joseph L. Kennedy
President